

MAR 13 2015

SENATE RESOLUTION

REPLACING THE TERM "AFRICAN AMERICAN" WITH "AMERICAN OF AFRICAN DESCENT" AS A RACE CATEGORY USED IN SURVEYS CONDUCTED BY THE STATE OF HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, the race and ethnicity categories used in state
2 surveys describe the groups to which individuals belong,
3 identify, or belong in the eyes of the community; and
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5 WHEREAS, race categories include: American Indian or Alaska
6 Native; Asian; Black or African American; Native Hawaiian or
7 Other Pacific Islander; and White; and
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9 WHEREAS, race and ethnicity categories, as used in surveys
10 conducted by the State of Hawaii, are generally self-identifying
11 data items in which a survey respondent may choose the race or
12 races and ethnicity with which they most closely identify; and
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14 WHEREAS, many individuals do not identify with the "African
15 American" category because it does not adequately describe this
16 culturally diverse and ethnically unique group; and
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18 WHEREAS, the term "American of African Descent" is a
19 broader representation of an individual's race and ethnicity,
20 and this term should replace "African American" in surveys
21 conducted by the State of Hawaii; now, therefore,
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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015,
25 that the term "American of African Descent" should be used as a
26 race category in place of "African American" for surveys
27 conducted by the State of Hawaii; and



S.R. NO. 72

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor.
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OFFERED BY:

B. L. Rivas *BR*

